

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /015 W

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R 030657Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6092

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, GB

SUBJ: GRAND POUBARA DAM PROJECT

REF: A) STATE 23583; B) LIBREVILLE 126

1. EMBASSY AGREES WITH USDOC COMMENT PARA 2 REF A THAT PLANNED GRAND POUBARA DAM PROJECT KNOWN TO OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL. AS POINTED OUT REF B, JAPANESE ORIGINALLY PLANNING TO BUILD THE DAM AT BOOUE, BUT THIS REJECTED BY GOG. ULTIMATE SUCCESS OF U.S. FIRM IN BIDDING FOR PROJECT WILL DEPEND ON ITS PROPOSAL AND PRICE. U.S. FIRM MAY HAVE SLIGHT ADVANTAGE BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT BONGO'S COMMENT TO AMBASSADOR REQUESTING THAT AMERICAN BUILD DAM, AND EMBASSY HAS DONE ALL IT CAN HERE TO MAKE PRESIDENT'S COMMENT SEEM TO BE FIRM COMMITMENT. OF COURSE IT QUITE POSSIBLE PRESIDENT MADE SIMILAR COMMENT OT OTHER AMBASSADORS.

2. RE PARA 3, REF A, EMBASSY HAD NO REPEAT NO KNOWLEDGE OF TAMS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN DAM CONTRACT UNTIL RECENT RECEIPT DURING LAST WEEK OF JANUARY OF COPY OF LETTER FROM TAMS TO PRESIDENT BONGO EXPRESSING TAMS INTEREST IN PROJECT. WHILE EMBASSY WELCOMES TAMS INTEREST AND BELIEVES THEY HAVE BEEN WISE TO APPROACH PRESIDENT DIRECTLY, IT DOES NOT APPEAR DESIRABLE TO CEASE EFFORTS WITH OTHER AMERICAN FIRMS UNTIL EXTENT OF TAMS EFFORTS IS CLEARER. PERHAPS USDOC COULD APPROACH TAMS FOR MORE INFORMATION

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ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE PLANNING REGARDING SUBJECT PROJECT,

AND GENTLY SUGGEST THAT IT IN THEIR INTEREST TO KEEP
EMBASSY AND USDOC BETTER INFORMED OF THEIR ACTIONS AND PLANS.
MCKESSON

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